

From: Schulman
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

After the United States Government pursued breaking up the phone company at great cost to the taxpayer, the ultimate result was higher costs for service, poorer quality service, nuisance competitive advertising and illegal switching of services, and the little Bells are starting to merge together to improve service, reduce cost and get a better handle on management.

Regarding the Microsoft Settlement, all I see is that the United States Government is demonstrating again that it did not learn from historical reference. Ultimately, the consumer will not benefit, the taxpayer will have footed an enormous cost, and Microsoft will end up the winner anyhow. It's a lose/lose game and the Government is making the rules to make sure that the real loser is still the consumer.

I think the United States Government cannot run private business as well as private business can. As it is, there are too many incompetent administrators with guaranteed job security and high salaries in the government that would have been fired in the private sector for excessive waste of profits and poor business handling.

I would grade the Government's efforts in this matter a C minus - and that is being generous.

After all, the private sector cannot provide a military with such waste and lost records as has been shown time and time again and still manage to protect our country with other people's money as our Government can.

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